

On the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we must remember the difficult times our brave servicemen and women went through to defend our nation, and we mourn the deaths of the military personnel and civilians who died that day. Mr. Speaker, today we must ensure that our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren learn about the lives of our veterans, including those of the Greatest Generation who served in World War II. Our commitment to our veterans must remain strong because they are a symbol of the greatness of our country.

President Kennedy once said that you can judge a nation not just by the people—the men and women—that it produces, but also by the people that a nation remembers. Today, Mr. Speaker, we remember true heroes.

TRIBUTE TO MR. HARRY SHASHO—
A CITIZEN DEDICATED TO THE
IMPROVEMENT OF HIS COMMUNITY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, in Southern Maryland we are blessed to have so many exemplary citizens who invest their time, energy and talent in making it a special place to live. One such citizen who has gone above and beyond and exemplifies the true spirit of American entrepreneurship is Harry Shasho. Harry believes in the community and has worked hard to improve the lives of Charles County residents now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to acknowledge the deeds and fortunes of this outstanding citizen, Harry Shasho. Harry got an early start in business and in fact, says he has been a businessman since he was 12 years old. In 1976 when Harry moved to Charles County, he owned a small chain of camera and electronics stores on F St. in Washington, D.C. In 1985, he sold his portion of the business and began selling real estate; first residential, then commercial. In 1989, Harry went to work for Baldus Real Estate and started their Commercial Division. Now, Baldus is the best known Commercial Company in Southern Maryland.

As a businessman, Harry recognized the need to train future leaders and became involved in helping young men through Boy Scouts. Over the years, he has not only guided boys into becoming more effective and productive citizens, but has also trained adults to become better leaders. During his tenure as Scoutmaster, his scout troop has produced 12 Eagles Scouts, yet another tribute to his compassion. Mr. Shasho continues to serve on fundraising committees for the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Shasho has been a leader in the Charles County Chamber of Commerce for over 10 years, holding positions as Board of Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect, and is currently serving as the 2003 President. Under his direction as President, he has increased membership and built a strong alliance between the Chamber and County and State government officials. They have worked together on many issues which impact the business community.

In addition to serving with the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, Harry is

Chairman of the Southern Maryland advisory board for BB&T Bank, a committee member of the Charles County Economic Development Commission, Member of the National and State Association of Realtors and has received a National Leadership award from the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mr. Harry Shasho, as he retires as President of the Charles County Chamber of Commerce on January 12, 2004. We are all so proud of the work he has done to improve the lives of everyone in Charles County and I am very proud to call him my friend.

CELEBRATION OF THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF THE BUILDING OF
WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COL-
LEGE IN QATAR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 2003, Weill Cornell Medical College and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development embarked on an historical venture that brings the best of American medical education to the Middle East. I was privileged to participate in this extraordinary event along with Qatar Foundation Leadership: Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad; Saif Ali Al-Hajari, Vice Chairperson; H.E. Yousef Hussein Kamal, Member Board of Directors; H.E. Hajar Ahmed Hajar, Member, Board of Directors; Sheikhha bint Abdullah Al-Misnad, Member, Board of Directors; Mohammed Fathy Saoud, Member, Board of Directors; and, Cornell University Leadership: Peter C. Meinig, Chairman, Board of Trustees; Sanford I. Weill, Chairman, Board of Overseers Weill Cornell Medical College; Jeffrey S. Lehman, President; Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., Provost for Medical Affairs and Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College; Daniel R. Alonso, Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Together with these esteemed colleagues, we marked the opening of a model institution that I hope will be replicated throughout the region.

I first visited Doha, Qatar in 1999 for the historic municipal elections where women were first granted the right to vote. At that time, I met with Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad who requested help in bringing a U.S. medical school to Qatar. I did not have to look far to find an extraordinary medical institution that is located in my Congressional district. As a result, I took a small part in working to forge the relationship between Her Highness and Dean Gotto, Provost for Medical Affairs at Cornell University. Just a few short weeks ago, the Qatar branch of the Weill Cornell Medical College celebrated its inauguration.

In a very short period of time, Doha has been transformed into an academic hub of the Middle East and has become a strategic ally of the United States. Under the leadership of Her Highness, Qatar has made significant advancements in education, medicine, and science with the opening of the Education City. I strongly believe that the opening of WCMC-Q marks the beginning of an impor-

tant exchange between the West and the East . . . at a time when the value of mutual understanding is at a premium. Qatar offers a superb environment and facilities for both teaching and studying, backed by an outstanding technological center. It has been an honor to be involved in the development of the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, and I look forward to marking the evolution of the entire Education City.

Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar is a pioneer in medical education as well as in diplomatic exchange. The College offers a complete medical education, leading to a Cornell University Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree, with teaching by Cornell faculty. It is the first American university to offer its M.D. degree overseas, and the first higher education institution in Qatar to be coeducational; women made up 70 percent of the inaugural class for the Pre-medical Program. These points are very important. Prospective students are subject to the same entrance requirements as in the United States and are awarded the same degree as students in the U.S. While WCMC-Q teaches in a coeducational forum, the students and faculty are learning together about cultural differences that only serve to enhance the learning environment. WCMC-Q aims to further the University's commitment of education, research, patient care and the advancement of the art and science of medicine while supporting the work of the Qatar Foundation in serving the community. WCMC-Q trains the physicians of the future and will research medical problems of concern in the region.

His Highness the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikhha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad have made an ambitious and visionary investment in their people and their economy by creating the Education City. Recognizing that development and advancement will only come with an upgrade to the educational system, they have succeeded in fostering the interaction of various disciplines, cultures, and ideas through the Education City. The Qatar Foundation logo, the Sidra tree, represents nourishment for these ideals and serves as a reminder that Qatar is forging the way for democracy, freedom, and human rights in the region.

I feel privileged to have participated in this revolutionary event and I would like to reiterate my praise for both the Qatar Foundation and for Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. You have built a bridge that will have a far-reaching impact into the future and will serve as a model of achievement for many to follow.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT
OF CADET CLIFFORD T. JACKSON
TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Clifford T. Jackson on his announced appointment to Chief Petty Officer in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, which is scheduled to occur on January 9, 2004. Cadet Jackson, of Westerly, Rhode Island, is an honor roll high school senior and has been a member of the Nautilus Division at the Sub Base in New London since

March 2001. Cadet Jackson has risen to the rank of Chief Petty Officer faster than any other cadet in the 26 years of the Nautilus Division. This accomplishment is only bestowed upon one half of one percent of approximately ten thousand Naval Sea Cadets in the program and reflects exceptional leadership skills and a masterful grasp of seamanship training.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Clifford Jackson for his achievement, and I wish him great success in his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST REL ALLEN RAVAGO IV

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my constituent, United States Army Specialist Rel Allen Ravago IV of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, who was killed in action on November 23, 2003 in Mosul, Iraq when hostile forces attacked his Army vehicle.

After graduating from Hoover High School in Glendale, Specialist Ravago soon joined the United States Army and was deployed to Iraq in May 2003. He was due to return home next March at the end of his four-year tenure in the Army. From all accounts, he was a dedicated and enthusiastic soldier who served our country with courage and distinction.

A talented artist and honorable soldier, Specialist Ravago's family, friends and fellow servicemen have spoken with admiration and veneration of his commitment to duty, his dedication to his unit and his love of country and family.

Students at Hoover High recently erected a patriotic memorial of red, white and blue carnations mixed with American flags, containing a short, but poignant message attached: "You'll be missed."

Friends, family and loved ones remember Ravago as a popular student who played in Hoover High's drum corps and studied martial arts. His former teachers describe him as "radiating joy and a love of life" with a "smile that you could see from miles away."

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Specialist Ravago's parents and grandfather following his death. They told me how proud they were of their son and grandson, how proud he was to serve his country and how much they would always miss him. Our nation owes his family a debt we can never repay and Specialist Ravago will never be far from our thoughts. His sacrifice and those of other soldiers who have fallen on the field of battle have kept our nation free.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to once again, bestow our most heartfelt appreciation for Army Specialist Rel Allen Ravago's service and sacrifice for the United States of America. To his family and loved ones: your son, your brother, your grandson, your nephew, your cousin and your friend, served our country with honor and nobility and he will be missed.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, we can no longer keep our nation safe if we do not commit ourselves to learning the languages and cultures of critical areas around the world. The security of our troops overseas and the American people here at home demand that we act quickly to eliminate the severe shortage of critical need language professionals in this country. Inaction on this issue is not only irresponsible; it's dangerous.

That's why I rise today to introduce legislation, the National Security Language Act, which would significantly expand our investment in foreign language education on the primary, secondary, and post-secondary level.

Al Qaeda operates in over 75 countries, where hundreds of languages and dialects are spoken. However, 99 percent of American high school, college and university programs concentrate on a dozen (mostly European) languages. In fact, more college students currently study Ancient Greek (20,858) than Arabic (10,596), Korean (5,211), Persian (1,117), and Pashto (14) put together. We need to do more to make sure that America has the language professionals necessary to defend our national security. This cannot be done overnight. We are already years overdue.

As reported by the 911 Joint Inquiry in July, our intelligence community is at 30 percent readiness in languages critical to national security. Despite this alarming statistic, we do not appear to be taking aggressive action to address this problem. When I asked a panel of intelligence experts at a recent Intelligence hearing what the federal government is doing to increase the pool of critical need language professionals, they answered with silence. Two years after the events of September 11, we are still failing to address one of the most fundamental security problems facing this nation.

Changing our recruiting methods alone will not solve the problem. To meet new security needs, we need to create a new domestic pool of foreign language experts and we can only do that by investing in the classroom.

The National Security Language Act would expand federal investment in education in foreign languages of critical need, such as Arabic, Persian, Korean, Pashto, and Chinese. Specifically, my bill would provide loan forgiveness of up to \$10,000 for university students who major in a critical need foreign language and then take a job either in the federal workforce or as a language teacher. It would provide new grants to American universities to establish intensive in-country language study programs and to develop programs that encourage students to pursue advanced science and technology studies in a foreign language.

My bill would also establish grants for foreign language partnerships between local school districts and foreign language departments at institutions of higher education. And it would authorize a national study to identify heritage communities here in the United States with native speakers of critical foreign languages and make them targets of a federal marketing campaign encouraging students to pursue degrees in those languages.

Just as the National Defense Education Act of 1958 created a generation of scientists, engineers, and Russian linguists to confront the enemy of that time, the National Security Language Act will give us a generation of Americans able to confront the new threats we face today.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2622, FAIR AND ACCURATE CREDIT TRANSACTIONS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report on H.R. 2622, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 (the FACT Act). As a member of the House Financial Services Committee and as a member of the conference committee that drafted the final version of this legislation, I was deeply involved in the drafting and consideration of this measure.

I was pleased to join with my colleagues, Representatives BACHUS, HOOLEY and BIGGERT, in introducing this bipartisan measure. This bill was approved in subcommittee on a vote of 41-0, in full committee by a vote of 63-3 and by the full House by a vote of 392-30 with one voting present. Earlier this week, the Senate approved a similar version of this bill by 95-2.

Mr. Speaker, this is the way Congress should work. This is the way our constituents want us to conduct their business. Consideration of this bill consistently has been bipartisan and thoughtful. All members of the committee with opinions and proposals on the issues raised by H.R. 2622 were able to offer amendments and participate in debate. The way in which this measure was handled made this a stronger piece of legislation than the version we introduced. I commend our committee's leadership, Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Democrat FRANK, for making this possible.

Mr. Speaker, the problems of inaccurate and incomplete information that plague the current credit reporting system are of great personal concern to those of our constituents who have suffered them. I'm sure each of us could relate instances involving constituents who have faced tremendous difficulty and aggravation in correcting inaccurate credit histories.

This legislation directly addresses these very real problems faced by people every day of the year. Our credit system is the envy of every other country in the world. Our country, overall, does an excellent job of making credit available quickly and fairly to consumers and businesses. Enactment of H.R. 2622 will preserve and strengthen this system. This conference agreement permanently extends those provisions of the 1996 version of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) that prevent states from enacting stronger credit laws, thereby extending the federal standards in those areas—including those rules dealing with how affiliates can share consumer information.

The measure also provides new consumer protections against identity theft, including the